

(Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 78, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 81

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 81, a bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

S. 82

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 110

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 110, a bill to allow a State to submit a declaration of intent to the Secretary of Education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 123

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 123, a bill to protect American small businesses, gig workers, and freelancers by repealing the burdensome American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 transactions reporting threshold, and to rescind certain funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service under section 10301 of Public Law 117-169.

S. CON. RES. 2

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 2, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. Res. 10, a resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22nd day of January each year.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, the Senate introduced S. 126 as follows:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 126. A bill to make individuals responsible for undermining free and fair democratic elections inadmissible to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 126

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fortifying Lawful Elections and Democracy Accountability Act of 2023" or the "FLED Accountability Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. INADMISSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERMINING FREE AND FAIR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.

(a) DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of State determines, on the basis of credible information, that an individual who is not a citizen of the United States knowingly took significant action to inhibit or attempt to inhibit, while serving as an official of the government of a foreign country, the lawful democratic transition of power or the lawful functioning of democratic electoral processes in that country, the Secretary shall designate the individual as inadmissible to the United States as described in subsection (b).

(2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall publicly or privately designate under paragraph (1) an individual about whom the Secretary has made a determination under that paragraph without regard to whether the individual has applied for a visa.

(b) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—An individual designated under subsection (a) is—

(A) inadmissible to the United States;

(B) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any individual designated under subsection (a) is subject to revocation regardless of the issue date of the visa or other entry documentation.

(B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) take effect immediately; and

(ii) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the individual.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—This subsection shall not apply with respect to an individual if admitting or paroling the individual into the United States is necessary to permit the

United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the application of subsection (b) with respect to an individual designated under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (3) a report—

(A) identifying individuals designated under subsection (a) during the year preceding submission of the report;

(B) listing the waivers issued under subsection (c) during that year; and

(C) setting forth a justification for each such waiver.

(2) FORM OF REPORT; AVAILABILITY.—

(A) FORM.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of each report required by paragraph (1) shall posted on a publicly accessible website of the Department of State.

(3) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this paragraph are—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to apply to actions taken—

(1) to provide assistance to promote democratic elections or public participation in democratic processes; or

(2) to support a democratic transition.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 130. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to reauthorize and improve the ReConnect loan and grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 130

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Internet Improvement Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. STREAMLINING BROADBAND AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting "RECONNECT PROGRAM";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) RECONNECT PROGRAM.—The term 'ReConnect Program' means the program established under this section.";

(3) in subsection (c)—
 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)—
 (i) in clause (i)—
 (I) in subclause (I), by striking “10-Mbps” and inserting “25-Mbps”; and
 (II) in subclause (II), by striking “1-Mbps” and inserting “3-Mbps”; and
 (ii) by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:
 “(iv) give priority to applications from applicants that have demonstrated the technical and financial experience required to construct and operate broadband networks.”; and
 (B) by adding at the end the following:
 “(5) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an application process for grants, loans, and loan guarantees under this section that—
 “(A) reduces the amount of data required to apply by limiting the required data to only—
 “(i) the entity applying, excluding any parent or affiliate entity that is not a party to the application, to the greatest extent practicable; and
 “(ii) the geographic area affected by the application, if a parent or affiliate is not a party to the application;
 “(B) simplifies the data interfaces for submission to the greatest extent practicable; and
 “(C) allows all applicants, regardless of whether an applicant is publicly traded, to rely on a bond rating of at least investment grade (when bond ratings are available) in place of financial documentation.”;
 (4) in subsection (d)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (j)” and inserting “subsection (1)”;
 and
 (ii) by adding at the end the following:
 “(C) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary—
 “(i) shall not restrict the eligibility of an entity for a grant under this section based on the legal structure of the entity;
 “(ii) shall allow entities to apply for a grant under this section without regard to, or preference for, the legal structure of an entity;
 “(iii) in determining the financial ability of an entity to carry out a project using a grant under this section, shall allow the entity to demonstrate that financial ability by methods that—
 “(I) the Secretary determines to be the least burdensome; and
 “(II) subject to clause (v), are not limited to providing the Federal Government an exclusive first lien on all grant-funded assets during the service obligation of the grant;
 “(iv) subject to clause (v), in determining the required collateral to secure grant funds or to secure performance during the service obligation of a grant, shall allow an awardee to offer alternative security, such as a letter of credit, in lieu of providing the Federal Government an exclusive first lien on all grant-funded assets; and
 “(v) if the Secretary reasonably determines that alternative methods or alternative security established under clause (iii)(II) or (iv) are insufficient to secure performance with respect to a project under this section—
 “(I) may require an entity to provide the Federal Government an exclusive first lien on all grant-funded assets during the service obligation of the grant; and
 “(II) shall release that lien after the Secretary determines that the entity is performing to the satisfaction of the Secretary.”; and
 (B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “50” and inserting “90”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:
 “(D) OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE BROADBAND SERVICE IN THE SAME SERVICE TERRITORY.—
 “(i) DEFINITION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘broadband infrastructure’ means any cables, fiber optics, wiring, or other permanent infrastructure that is integral to the structure, including fixed wireless infrastructure, that—
 “(I) is capable of providing access to internet connections in individual locations; and
 “(II) offers an advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706(d) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302(d))).
 “(ii) OTHER PROVIDERS.—The Secretary shall consider a proposed service territory with respect to which an eligible entity submits an application to carry out a project under this section to be served by broadband service if a broadband service provider other than that eligible entity is subject to an obligation by a Federal, State, or local government entity to build broadband infrastructure and offer broadband service in that service territory, subject to conditions—
 “(I) under a Federal, State, or local funding award program; or
 “(II) otherwise required by the Federal, State, or local government entity.
 “(iii) OTHER FUNDING.—Subject to clause (iv), the Secretary shall not be required to consider a proposed service territory with respect to which an eligible entity submits an application to carry out a project under this section to be served by broadband service if that eligible entity has accepted an obligation under a Federal, State, or local funding award program to build broadband infrastructure and offer broadband service in that service territory, if the proposed project under this section—
 “(I) would not be duplicative of the obligation under the other award program; and
 “(II) would build broadband infrastructure that results in faster speeds or expedited milestones of deployment of broadband infrastructure in that service territory, as compared to the obligation under the other award program.
 “(iv) OTHER OBLIGATIONS FOR LOWER TRANSMISSION CAPACITY.—The Secretary shall consider a proposed service territory with respect to which an eligible entity submits an application to carry out a project under this section to be unserved by broadband service if an obligation under another award program described in clause (iii) would not provide broadband service of at least—
 “(I) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and
 “(II) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.
 “(E) REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING.—
 “(i) AFFILIATE OWNED AND OPERATED NETWORKS.—A grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section may be used to construct networks that will be owned and operated by an affiliate of the eligible entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guarantee, subject to the condition that the eligible entity, the affiliate, or both, as the Secretary determines to be necessary, shall provide adequate security for the grant, loan, or loan guarantee.
 “(ii) NEGATIVE COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS.—To the greatest extent practicable, a project carried out using a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section shall not add any new negative covenants or conditions to the grant, loan, or loan guarantee agreement that were not previously disclosed to the eligible entity at the time of application for the grant, loan, or loan guarantee.
 “(iii) OWNERSHIP OF SYSTEMS.—
 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A network constructed with a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under

this section may be transferred to an unaffiliated provider that agrees—
 “(aa) to assume the service obligation; and
 “(bb) to provide appropriate and sufficient security for that network.
 “(II) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall not unreasonably withhold consent to enter into an appropriate agreement described in subclause (I) with the transferee based on an evaluation by the Secretary of the ability of the transferee to assume the agreement and provide security described in item (bb) of that subclause.
 “(iv) REPORTING AND AUDITING.—The Secretary shall—
 “(I) simplify, to the maximum extent practicable, ongoing reporting and auditing requirements for recipients of a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section; and
 “(II) allow a recipient described in subclause (I) whose financial information is consolidated with the financial information of a parent entity to rely on that consolidated financial information in complying with the requirements described in that subclause if the parent entity is providing a guarantee on behalf of a subsidiary of the parent entity with respect to the grant, loan, or loan guarantee.
 “(v) PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING.—The Secretary—
 “(I) shall simplify, to the maximum extent practicable, requirements for recipients of a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section relating to the procurement of materials and retention of contractors; and
 “(II) shall not unreasonably restrict the ability of a recipient described in subclause (I) to obtain goods and services from affiliated entities.”;
 (5) in subsection (e)(1)—
 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “25-Mbps” and inserting “100-Mbps”; and
 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “3-Mbps” and inserting “20-Mbps”;
 (6) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively;
 (7) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:
 “(j) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this section in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.
 “(k) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Rural Internet Improvement Act of 2023, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—
 “(1) publish a report describing—
 “(A) the distribution of amounts made available under the ReConnect Program for the preceding year;
 “(B) the number of locations at which broadband service was made available using amounts under the ReConnect Program for the preceding year;
 “(C) the number of locations described in subparagraph (B) at which broadband service was used; and
 “(D) the highest level of broadband service made available at each location described in subparagraph (B); and
 “(2) submit the report described in paragraph (1) to—
 “(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;
 “(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;
 “(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and
 “(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.”; and
 (8) in subsection (l) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (1), by striking “\$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “such sums as are necessary for each fiscal year”.

(b) SUNSET.—Beginning on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 399), shall have no force or effect.

(c) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS.—The unobligated balance, as of the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, of any amounts made available to carry out the pilot program described in section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 399)—

(1) is transferred to, and merged with, amounts made available to carry out section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb); and

(2) shall remain available, until expended, and without further appropriation, to carry out the ReConnect Program established under that section.

(d) EFFECT.—Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 607. EFFECT.

“Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to regulate rates charged for broadband service.”.

(e) PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, including a complete shapefile map” after “applicant”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking “(c)” and inserting “(d)”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) CHALLENGE PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a transparent, evidence based, and expeditious process for challenging, with respect to any area for which assistance is sought under an application described in subsection (a)(1), whether that area has access to broadband service.

“(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture a written notice describing—

“(A) the decision of the Secretary on each challenge submitted under paragraph (1); and

“(B) the reasons for each decision described in subparagraph (A).”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELIGIBLE FUNDING AREAS.—Prior to making available to the public the database under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make available to the public a fully searchable database on the website of the Rural Utilities Service that contains information on areas eligible for assistance under retail broadband projects that are administered by the Secretary in accordance with the maps created by the Federal Communications Commission under section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).”.

(f) FEDERAL BROADBAND PROGRAM COORDINATION.—Section 6212 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–6) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (b), (c), (e), and (a), respectively, and moving the subsections so as to appear in alphabetical order;

(2) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (3), by striking “section 601(b)(3) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936” and inserting “section 601(b) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb(b))”;

(3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) RECONNECT PROGRAM.—On awarding a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under the ReConnect Program established under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb), the Secretary shall notify the Commission of that award.”;

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Assistant Secretary and the Commission to facilitate outreach to residents and businesses in rural areas, including—

“(1) to evaluate the broadband service needs in rural areas;

“(2) to inform residents and businesses in rural areas of available Federal programs that promote broadband access, broadband affordability, and broadband inclusion; and

“(3) for such additional goals as the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, and the Commission determine to be appropriate.”.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 133. A bill to extend the National Alzheimer’s Project; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 134. A bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer’s Project Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce two bills aimed at continuing the important progress we are making to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s disease. I know how devastating this disease is to our families. My father, grandfather, and two uncles all died from Alzheimer’s. I am committed to this effort both as a person whose beloved family members have suffered from this terrible disease, as well as a Senator concerned about the impact on our families and our healthcare system.

When I founded the Congressional Alzheimer’s Task Force in the Senate in 1999, there was virtually no focus on Alzheimer’s in Washington. Twelve years ago, I coauthored the bipartisan National Alzheimer’s Project Act with my colleague Senator Evan Bayh. Before we passed that legislation, there was no coordinated, strategic, national plan to focus our efforts to defeat Alzheimer’s. NAPA fixed this by convening a panel of experts to create a coordinated strategic national plan to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s disease by 2025. The expert council updates the plan annually.

While the 2025 goal has been elusive, we have made some progress in our efforts to find a treatment and a means of prevention. Nevertheless, Alzheimer’s remains the fifth leading cause of death in the United States for people over 65. In addition to the human costs, caring for people living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is one of the costliest conditions to society, costing our Nation an astonishing \$321 billion per year, including \$206 billion in Medicare and Medicaid spending. If we continue along this trajectory, Alzheimer’s is projected to claim the minds of 12.7 million seniors and nearly surpass \$1 trillion in annual costs by 2050.

It takes a tremendous toll on families too. In 2021, family caregivers provided 16 billion hours of unpaid care for loved ones with dementia, a contribution to society valued at more than \$271 billion. That job is often 24/7 and often harms the health of the caregiver.

The first bill I am introducing today with my colleagues Senators WARNER, CAPITO, MARKEY, MORAN, MENENDEZ, MURKOWSKI, and STABENOW is the NAPA Reauthorization Act. This bill would reauthorize the National Alzheimer’s Project Act through 2035 and modernize the legislation to reflect strides we have made in understanding the disease, such as including a new focus on promoting healthy aging and reducing risk factors. The National Alzheimer’s Project Act is set to expire in 2025. We need to reauthorize this critical legislation this Congress in order to ensure that our research investments remain coordinated and there are no disruptions as we maximize the impact of our investments.

The second bill I am introducing with my colleagues Senators MARKEY, CAPITO, WARNER, MORAN, MENENDEZ, MURKOWSKI, and STABENOW is the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act. This bill would continue through 2035 a requirement that the Director of the National Institutes of Health submit an annual budget to Congress estimating the funding necessary for NIH to fully implement NAPA’s research goals. Only two other areas of biomedical research—cancer and HIV/AIDS—have been the subject of special budget development aimed at speeding discovery, and this “bypass budget,” as it is known, helps us to understand what additional funding is needed to find better treatments, a means of prevention, and ultimately a cure for Alzheimer’s disease.

Nearly half of baby boomers reaching age 85 will either be afflicted with Alzheimer’s or caring for someone who has it. In many ways, Alzheimer’s is the defining disease of this generation. We have made tremendous progress in recent years to boost funding for Alzheimer’s research, most recently providing \$3.74 billion—a \$226 million increase—for NIH Alzheimer’s research in the fiscal year 2023 government funding bill. This investment holds